



# pRide



SUMMER 1997

THE NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR

RHODE ISLAND STATE EMPLOYEES

## SPEAK UP FOR A CHILD: BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER



CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, needs concerned citizens to volunteer their time as advocates for the many abused and neglected children who are involved with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and the Family Court.

The primary goal of CASA is to see that the child's best interests are served and that the child does not fall through the "cracks" in the system. CASA tries to ensure, among other things, that the child is placed in a warm, safe and stable living situation; that the child receives needed services; and that each child's placement is reviewed regularly.

A background in social work, psychology etc. is not necessary to become a CASA volunteer. Rather, we are looking for individuals with common sense, who have a concern for children, a desire to help, the ability and maturity to understand and deal with complex and often emotionally charged situations, and the ability to remain objective.

As a volunteer, you will have the responsibility for one case, and you will work closely with a CASA attorney. Duties include visiting the child/children and speaking with DCYF social workers, foster parents, parents and other service providers involved in the case. You will also be asked to prepare written reports for the Family Court with recommendations as to the best interests of the child. Volunteers are asked to appear in court, if possible, to present their report and answer any questions the judge may have pertaining to the report.

The children that CASA volunteers are involved with are between the ages of birth and eighteen. The amount of time spent on a case varies with the complexity of the case and the child's situation. No one is asked to spend a specific number of hours per day or week on a case or in the CASA office. Your duties as a volunteer can usually be worked around your schedule and full time employment does not preclude one from becoming a CASA volunteer.

Volunteers are asked to complete a 15-hour training program, and once assigned to a case, are asked to attend in-service training sessions. CASA social workers are always available to volunteers as part of a resource and support network.

CASA volunteers are asked to perform a very important role in the life of a child. While this role can be gratifying, it can sometimes be heartbreaking. However, it will always be challenging and you will be helping a child by giving that child a voice in court.

For more information and/or an application, please contact the CASA office, Rhode Island Family Court, at 277-6863, and ask for Christine.

## DIRECTORS RUFFINO & LEE TO KICK OFF '97 SECA CAMPAIGN

**Barbara Ruffino**, Director of the Department of Elderly Affairs, and **Dr. Lee Arnold**, Director of the Department of Labor & Training, will officially open the 1997 State Employee Charitable Appeal on the afternoon of Friday, September 19. Plans for the kick off have yet to be finalized, but both directors are determined to make it educational and fun for all participants. Festivities will include cake, balloons, and the highlighting of the campaign's theme "**REALIZING WHAT TOMORROW CAN BRING**".

"We are honored to have Directors Ruffino & Lee chair this year's campaign," said **Kelly Nevins**, Director of SECA. "Their presence sets a very positive tone for the campaign and I believe state employees will take their lead by making this the most successful campaign ever".

Last year, generous Rhode Island state employees broke all records of giving, raising \$666,495, the most in SECA's 14 year history.

## SEND US YOUR STORIES!

If a SECA supported agency has helped you or a fellow state worker, drop us a line or call so we can share the experience. The same is true about outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of SECA supported agencies. Sharing positive SECA experiences draws attention to people who deserve a special note of thanks and allows everyone involved with the campaign to motivate and inspire our co-workers. Call **Kelly Nevins**, SECA Director, at (401) 444-0614.

## CRIME PREVENTION POSTER AVAILABLE

The R.I. Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit has developed a poster to encourage the public to contact the Unit in suspected cases of Workers' Compensation fraud. An information brochure is also available to the insurance industry and the general public. To obtain a copy of either or both the poster and brochure call:

**1-800-83-FRAUD** (within RI)







## FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

### Executive Orders

- 97-5** 4-8-97 Establishes RI Tourism Advisory Council.
- 97-6** 5-7-97 Orders continuation of Paratransit Task Force.
- 97-7** 6-6-97 Establishes commission to study insurance statutes.

For more information or copies of Executive Orders, call the **Office of the Executive Counsel, 277-2080, Ext. 258.**

## NOTES FROM THE GENERAL TREASURER'S OFFICE



General Treasurer Nancy Mayer recently presented Award Citations to outstanding business students from Rhode Island high schools. The 45

award recipients, chosen by their teachers and guidance counselors, attained a B+ average or equivalent through Grades 9, 10, 11, and the first semester of Grade 12, and demonstrated leadership potential for future success in the business world.

"These young people represent the future of Rhode Island and of our country...we want this award to encourage them to further pursue their business studies," Mayer said. The students were honored in an Awards Ceremony in the Senate Chamber at the State House.

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The Treasurer is pleased to announce that the reform of the Crime Victim's Compensation Program is

moving along in its changeover to an administrative system. **Barbara Boden** has been hired as the Program Administrator to oversee the transition from a court-based system to an easier administrative system. Under the old system, crime victims had to hire a lawyer and sue the State to get compensation for their injuries. The new Administrative system is a more accessible, less daunting procedure. Now, victims who contact the Treasury's Crime Victim's Compensation office are guided in filling out a simple application for assistance. Mayer's office developed new brochures and a simple, two-page application. In its first six months, the Program received over 300 applications for compensation. Mayer said: "Changing to an administrative system will help reduce a backlog of more than 2,000 cases. The State is finally beginning to treat these crime victims with dignity".

For information, contact the Crime Victim's Compensation Program at the General Treasurer's Office, 40 Fountain Street, Providence, RI 02903; or call **401-277-2287.**

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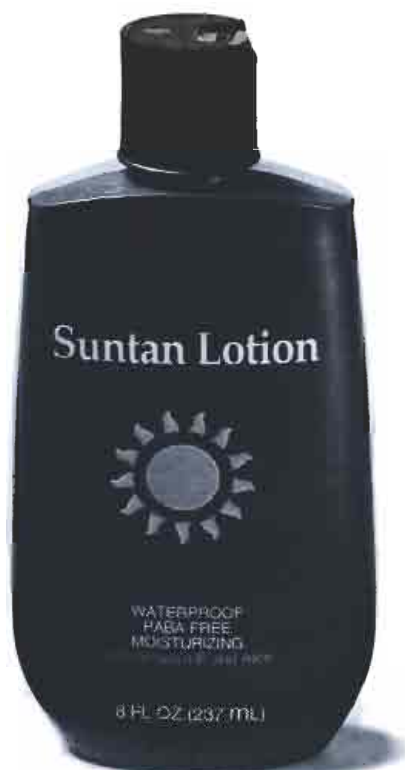
**Deadline for contributions to the Fall issue is August 15, 1997.**

**The State of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity employer and reasonable accommodations will be provided. For assistance, call EEO Office at 277-3590. (TDD 277-6144).**

## Office of Training and Development Summer Courses

July		Fee
1	Intro to Personal Computers	\$40
2	Intro to Windows 3.1	20
8&16	Pagemaker Basics (Desktop Publishing) ( <i>Enrollment extremely limited and participants should have some Windows experience</i> )	40
10	Using Window's File Manager	20
16	Effective Hiring Interviewing Techniques	20
16	Getting Your Employee Started Right	20
22&29	Intro to Windows 95	85
22	Effective Staff Meetings	20
24	Project Management	40
24	Refining Business & Tech. Writing Skills	40
August		Fee
12&19	Intro to Windows 95	\$85
13	Time Management	20
13	Violence in the Workplace	20

For more information on these and other courses, call the Office of Training and Development (OTD) at **277-2877**. For hearing impaired **TDD 277-6144**.



**94% of all employees**

## **With a 99% member who would go**

Keeping employees happy is no day at the beach. Employers have to work hard to keep morale and productivity high. That's where Tufts Health Plan can be of help. We work hard to provide superior service and access to high quality care. So hard, in fact, that in a recent survey 99% of our members said they were satisfied.\*

And now, Tufts Health Plan has come to Rhode Island. **Which** means state employees can be part of our satisfied membership. **And** gain access to our ever-growing network of doctors **and** hospitals.

would rather be at Narragansett Beach.

er satisfaction rate,  
anywhere else?

You can be sure we'll continue to work as hard as ever to keep our members satisfied and healthy. So compare us to your other health plan options. Because choosing the right health plan can brighten up any job. For more information, call your broker, association or 401-273-2600.

**TUFTS  Health Plan**

*No one does more to keep you healthy.*

\*1996 Tufts Health Plan Massachusetts HMO and POS surveys. ©1997 Tufts Health Plan



## RHODE ISLAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET

**THINK** — of what you could accomplish at a conference, seminar or workshop held in a distraction-free environment, and where all your needs are taken care of by a friendly staff.

**THINK** — of superb conference rooms and meeting areas furnished with comfortable, ergonomically correct furniture, and with complete audio-visual and computer link capabilities. Included is high-speed connection for 30 micro computers to the World Wide Web on the Internet, to all host computers at the University of R.I., and to any corporate or organizational network that can be accessed via the Internet.

**THINK** — of overnight accommodations for 64, in inviting, comfortable, half-hidden lodges bearing names synonymous with the outdoors — Laurel, Sycamore, Nettles, Spruce, Maple and Whispering Pines.

**THINK** — of an award-winning gourmet food service that is the talk of the conference-training-meeting industry, and that thousands of meeting participants have called "outstanding".

**THINK** — of creative, challenging programs that include an Executive Action Team Building Program; Strategic Planning Seminars and Workshops; Low Ropes Courses, Personal Style Assessments and more. Or, the Conference Center can custom-design meetings, seminars and training programs to fit your requirements.

**THINK** — of all these amenities set amid 2,300 quiet acres of pine-scented forest, sparkling brooks and pristine lakes, and you have Whispering Pines Conference Center at the University of Rhode Island's W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich.

**THINK** — is what meeting and conference participants do best at Whispering Pines Conference Center.

The business and university community has called Whispering Pines Conference Center, "one of the best kept secrets in Rhode Island." Find out why. For more information or to schedule a visit, call the Conference Coordinator at **401-397-3361, Ext. 6056**.

The staff at Whispering Pines hosted more than 500 meetings and conferences last year. They must be doing everything right.

## WEDDINGS, REUNIONS AND BAR MITZVAHS



for 1997, and it is now assisting couples looking for dates in 1998 and beyond.

Each season offers something different for couples who marry at Whispering Pines. The scenic surroundings offer a variety of suitable settings for an elegant outdoor summer wedding: perhaps a lakeside ceremony, followed by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served on the terrace under a pine-scented canopy of evergreen boughs. Following the wedding meal in the center's dining room overlooking the lake, a return to the outdoor terrace for an evening of "dancing under the stars" is encouraged.

After such a summer wedding, the father of a bride wrote, "Thank you for the extra effort in making my daughter's wedding picture perfect." The mother of another summer bride wrote, "You have a treasure in Whispering Pines, and I hope many more brides find it."

In addition to offering an outstanding conference site, Whispering Pines Conference Center has, since 1995, hosted weddings and other special events.

Satisfied couples who have held their wedding there all agree: Whispering Pines offers something very unique among wedding facilities. Word has spread, and the center has sold out their summer and fall calendar

In other seasons, other couples find an intimate fireside ceremony inside a lake-front lodge, the ideal spot in which to exchange wedding vows. An autumn bride sent her thanks for "making our wedding day a colorful masterpiece and a memory that we will treasure our entire lives."

Another couple enjoyed a winter wedding with a snowfall that morning, followed by an afternoon filled with brilliant sunshine that provided a spectacular backdrop to their special day. Their ceremony in front of a roaring fire, was intimate and cozy. They sent back thanks, adding that, "many guests commented positively about the many small extra efforts made by the staff."

Couples may hold their entire wedding at Whispering Pines, or only the reception. The center can arrange a reception to accommodate up to 150 guests. It also offers 32 guest rooms for the exclusive use of wedding guests the evening of the wedding. And, the Eisenhower Suite is reserved for the bride and groom. This honeymoon suite is named after President Eisenhower, a frequent visitor at the estate. To spend an enjoyable weekend at Whispering Pines, guests may arrive on a Friday and stay through Sunday.

In addition to weddings, other social events that include family and class reunions, anniversary and birthday parties, and bar mitzvahs are welcome.

For more information, or to schedule a visit, call special event coordinator **Sue Barrett** at **401-397-3361, Ext. 6056**.

## DLT & DHS TEAM UP TO STREAMLINE SERVICES

The Department of Labor and Training (DLT) and the Department of Human Services, Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) have joined forces to help link employers with Rhode Islanders with disabilities.



DLT Director Dr. Lee Arnold signs agreement while other partners look on. L-to-R: Diane Cooke, Sue Olson, ORS, Barbara Teto, Bob Palumbo, DLT, Raymond Carroll, ORS Administrator and Mary Armstrong, DLT.

"The goal of both departments is to create an effective interagency system that will benefit mutual customers and eliminate wasteful duplication of services," stated **Dr. Lee H. Arnold**, Director of DLT.

Counselors are continuously interacting to build information networks and provide technical assistance to each other. They share resources such as personnel, space, workshops, training, testing, etc. Individuals are referred to the agency or person who can provide expert assistance to meet their particular needs. For example, labor market information, job listings, retraining programs, etc., are provided by DLT, while other training programs, testing, and distribution of adaptive equipment is provided by ORS.

"We have a common objective, to assist individuals with disabilities obtain and maintain meaningful employment," commented **Raymond A. Carroll**, Acting ORS Administrator.

"Working together, we can provide comprehensive and coordinated services leading to jobs and independence."



## "WOMEN AT THE CROSSROADS": A Conference to Celebrate Mid-Life



On September 26 women can unlock the secrets of a wondrous mid-life.

Be among the two hundred dynamic women from our area who will attend the "Women at the Crossroads" conference, to celebrate the fanciful forties, define the fabulous fifties, and share the splendor of the sixties!

Some of the top experts in the fields of financial management, psychology, women's health and women's studies will present ideas and methods of dealing with the challenges of career goal shifts, maturing bodies, our children as young adults, and evolving relationships. The conference provides a forum for women to share experiences, to learn from one another, to ask important questions, to rekindle our spirits, and to chart futures with meaning and purpose.

Keynoter **Wendy Crisp**, national director, National Association of Female Executives, will talk about "100 Things that I'm Not Going to Do Now That I'm Over 50". She is the author of a book by the same name. Workshop topics include: News on Health: Hot Flashes and Beyond; Women and Wealth: Getting it, Growing it, Keeping it; Comingtogether.com (How to use comp-

uters); Spirituality; and Power-up Your SELF: Mobilize, Maximize and Energize your Life. Five other workshops dealing with family and lifestyle choices, planning for the role of care giver, loss, and the power of humor round out the day-long session.

For more information contact **Pauline Hollingworth** at **401-464-3201**. **Registration is limited to the first two hundred women who apply.** The fee for the day is \$125, which includes lunch and afternoon refreshments, attendance at all workshops and a performance by the Drum Sisters, led by Expressive Arts Therapist Annie Geissinger.

The conference will be held at the Biltmore in Providence on **September 26** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Sponsors include the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals; the Women's Bureau, Region 1, US Department of Labor; the Rhode Island Coalition on Women; the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island; Pfizer, Inc.; pro-Mark Holdings, Inc.; Drake, Beam Morin, Inc.; the Student Government Board of the University of Rhode Island's College of Continuing Education; the law firm of Edwards & Angell; and CVS pharmacy.

Don't miss this opportunity for self-renewal, and to explore the great potential that lies ahead as you enter the next stage of life.

## CUSTOM CASUALS AT STATE HOUSE GIFT SHOP



Looking for that special gift? One of Rhode Island's best hidden treasures is Custom Casuals at State House Gift Shop. Located on the "B" level of the State House, the shop is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday, through Friday. Here you will find an impressive array of unusual gifts by Rhode Island artists — jewelry, notepads, brass ornaments, as well as Rhode Island souvenirs

and memorabilia. You can also purchase various types of T-shirts, sweatshirts, sundries, snacks, soft beverages, and magazines—to name a few. Many stop by routinely to check out what new items Joanne and Kim have stocked on their shelves.

In May, Custom Casuals celebrated their first year anniversary at the State House location. However, Joanne Monahan and her daughter Kim Catalano, are not new to the business. Having a background in retail, Joanne purchased Custom Casuals in Wickford in 1988. She operated that business until closing in August 1989. Reopening in Narragansett in 1990, Joanne decided to concentrate on custom designed T-shirts featuring designs from local artists, and the business grew from there. Joanne also manages local artists Arthur Hayward and Susan Simson. But Joanne is prompt to say that Kim is the one with the artistry talent in the family. Mother and Daughter make a great team!

Whether purchasing one item or buying in bulk for conferences or special events, Joanne and Kim will be happy to work with you to customize your purchase at the best price available. They have the ability to do on-premise custom work on a color laser, and most requests are filled.

From the simplest items to the most refined — from custom gifts through fine art, you will find what you are looking for at **Custom Casuals at State House Gift Shop**. Credit cards are accepted; gift certificates are available. With a summer-full of holidays and special occasions just ahead, you are sure to find that perfect gift.

Convenience, great prices, selection, pleasant people — what more could you ask for! Stop by and see Joanne and Kim or call **331-0073**.

## 25 THINGS TO BE HAPPY ABOUT . . .

1. A refreshing evening rain
2. Evenings on the front porch
3. School's out!
4. Women wearing wide-brim straw hats
5. The first ripe garden tomato
6. Sundays at Misquamicut Beach
7. People working in their gardens after supper
8. Old-fashion lemonade (made with real lemons!)
9. Summer church weddings
10. Chowder and clam cakes at Galilee
11. Vacation time!
12. Scarborough Beach on a sultry afternoon
13. Fishing for that elusive Brown trout
14. Little girls in white summer dresses with wide blue satin sashes
15. Cookouts and barbecues
16. The Bristol Fourth-of-July Parade
17. Boating on Narragansett Bay
18. Croquet games on emerald-green lawns
19. Locally sponsored neighborhood softball games
20. Summer band concerts
21. Girls with ribbons in their hair
22. Sunday afternoons in the park
23. A cruise to Block Island on the ferry
24. Gardens producing at full capacity
25. Eating native corn-on-the-cob

—DJB